



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
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July 12, 2021

Town of Buckland Select Board
Town Hall
17 State Street
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

To Whom it May Concern,

M.G.L. Chapter 252, Section 2A(b)(2) requires EEA to establish a process to allow a municipality to request to opt out of mosquito control spraying, either aerial or ground-based, conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (“SRMCB”) under M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A(a). For the SRMCB to recognize a municipal opt out, the municipality must first have an alternative management plan (“plan”) approved by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (“EEA”).

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A(b)(2), EEA has reviewed your municipality’s plan. EEA assessed the impact of your municipality’s alternative plan on regional mosquito control should your request to opt-out be approved, with consideration for historical arbovirus risk and with consideration for strength of plan submission. The impact of your plan as compared to mosquito control conducted by the SRMCB is rated as *minimal or low regional risk*. As a result, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A(b)(2), EEA has made a determination to **approve** your plan for 2021. This determination will be shared with the SRMCB so that it can take the necessary steps to recognize the opt out under the statute.

When executing your plan, please be aware that approval of this plan does not relieve an applicant of the necessity of complying with all applicable federal, state or local statutes, ordinances, bylaws or regulations, including but not limited to those administered by your local Conservation Commission, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Further, your municipality’s opt out does not extend to state-owned land within your municipality’s boundaries.

Despite approval, there remain substantial opportunities for improvement in all plan submissions this year. This includes the existence of and quality of alternative mosquito control management

services to be provided, implementation of source reduction methods, data collection and analysis, assessment of efficacy, and regional coordination. Most importantly, this also includes the extensiveness of education and outreach to local residents.

Guidance for next year's opt-out application program will be forthcoming. We expect that the application will have an expanded scope and requirements, and applications will be subject to significantly more stringent review. There should be no expectation that an approval decision for the 2021 season will carry forward to the 2022 season.

Public health outcomes are driven in part by local mosquito control actions. To facilitate planning improvements throughout the remainder of this season, please see attached for a document containing mosquito control resources for cities and towns. We expect that your municipality will review these materials and implement best practices to the maximum extent practicable throughout the rest of the season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "K. Theoharides". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen A. Theoharides
Secretary

Attachment: Mosquito Control Resources

CC: State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board

Application for an Alternative Mosquito Management Plan Required for a Municipality to Opt Out of Spraying Conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board

INTRODUCTION

- Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 252, Section 2A, municipalities may opt out of spraying, including aerial or other mosquito control spraying, conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (“SRMCB”). To opt out of any spraying conducted by the SRMCB, a municipality must have an alternative mosquito management plan (“Plan”) approved by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (“EEA”).
- Approval of a Plan allows a municipality to opt out of spraying (including both aerial or wide-area) conducted by the SRMCB under M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A. It does not extend to any spraying conducted by a mosquito control project or district (“MCD”) of which a municipality may be a member. Any questions related to services provided by an MCD should be directed to its attention.
- A Plan must be approved in order for the SRMCB to recognize any municipality’s request to opt out of spraying.
- This process applies only to municipalities. Any other requests to opt out of spraying or exclude private property must be made in accordance with M.G.L. c. 252 or 333 CMR 13.00. More information on these options is available on the SRMCB website at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/how-to-request-an-exclusion-or-opt-out-from-wide-area-pesticide-applications>.
- A Plan shall be effective from the date of approval through December 31st of the year in which it was approved.

PROCESS

The following steps must be completed prior to submitting a Plan to EEA for its review:

1. The municipality must hold a meeting of the City Council or Select Board, at which a vote must be taken indicating the municipality’s intention to opt out of spraying (including aerial or other mosquito control spraying) conducted by the SRMCB.
 - a. This meeting should include input on the Plan from the local board of health and allow for public comment.
 - b. The vote should include the following:
 - i. The date and time of the public meeting
 - ii. That the board of health was consulted;
 - iii. That public comment was allowed;
 - iv. Whether the municipality is opting out of all spraying or only certain spray activities, such as aerial spraying. If a vote does not include that it is for a specific type of spraying, the vote will cover all spray activities conducted by the SRMCB under M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A; and
 - v. That the vote to opt out will only be honored if **an alternative mosquito management plan** is submitted and approved by EEA.
2. The municipality must include a copy of the certified vote must be included as part of the application for approval of a Plan.
3. The municipality must complete this application for approval of a Plan and submit it to EEA at the following address: EEAopt-out@mass.gov
4. All applications must be received by end of day on the issued deadline.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide contact information for your municipality:

- Town/City: Buckland
- County: Franklin
- If your municipality is currently a member of a Mosquito Control District or Project, please enter the Project/District Name: pending Town Meeting vote on June 5, 2021, Pioneer Valley MCD
- Point of contact:
 - Name: Heather Butler Title: Town Administrator
 - Email: twnadmin@town.buckland.ma.us Phone: 413 625 6330
- **A copy of the certified vote** (must be submitted along with this application)

Is the person responsible for overseeing the work outlined in this plan different than the point of contact above? Yes No

If yes, please enter their information below:

- Point of contact:
 - Name: Title:
 - Email: Phone:

MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

Who is providing services? Check all that apply:

- MCD (If this box is checked, skip to the **MOSQUITO HABITAT** section on page 6)
- Contractor
 - Contractor name and contact information, if available:
 - Number of staff to be provided: Full-time: Part-time: Contract:
- Municipal Staff
 - Number of staff to be provided: Full-time: 6 Part-time: Contract:
 - Description of staff roles, licenses held to perform work, etc.
Four highway laborers with CDL and hoisting licenses. Two Wastewater Operators with Class 3 Operators licenses.

SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED

Check off all that apply:

- Education, Outreach & Public education (REQUIRED)
- Source reduction (tire removals)
- Water Management/Ditch maintenance
- Larval mosquito control
- Larval mosquito surveillance
- Adult mosquito control
- Adult mosquito surveillance (species ID and populations counts only)

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- Adult mosquito arbovirus testing (For EEE, WNV, etc.)**
- Research**
- Other (please list):**

Comments:

EQUIPMENT

Equipment needed for mosquito management, to be provided by contractor or in-house (if any):

- Modified wetland equipment (Number: and type:)
- Larval control equipment (Number: and type:)
- ULV sprayers (Number: and type:)
- Vehicles (Number:)
- Other (please describe):

SOURCE REDUCTION

If you plan to conduct tire removals or other methods of source reduction, please fill out the section below.

Please describe your program: The BOH will provide outreach to target auto repair shops and farms with site visits to assess risk factors and provide direction to owners towards DPH best practices.

What time frame during the year will this method be employed?

Comments: In the event DPH issues a 'critical' risk level, the failure of a business owner to make reasonable efforts to adhere to best practices, especially with regard to tire storage and property maintenance, the business owner will be required to appear before the BOH where applicable enforcement actions can be taken

WATER MANAGEMENT/DITCH MAINTENANCE

If you plan to have a water management or ditch maintenance program, please fill out the section below, or skip ahead to the next section.

Please check all that apply:

- Inland/freshwater habitats
- Saltmarsh/coastal habitats

Please describe your program:

Check off all planned maintenance types that apply:

- Culvert cleaning (Freshwater Saltwater)
- Hand cleaning (Freshwater Saltwater)
- Mechanized cleaning (Freshwater Saltwater)

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- Stream flow improvement
- Other (describe):

Comments:

The town has applied for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program grant :Watershed-Based Assessment and Climate Resiliency Plan for the Clesson Brook Watershed to study its local watershed. This comprehensive study demonstrates our commitment to future planning, and the same data we are collecting around culvert repair can be used in mosquito control planning.
For example, Task 5 of the study:
Develop a comprehensive database of assessed road-stream crossings along the Clesson Brook and main tributaries, to be used for prioritization of crossings for replacement

What time frame during the year would this work be done? June - October 2022

If available, please attach a map of ditch maintenance areas (or a website link to that map).

LARVAL MOSQUITO CONTROL:

*If you plan to have a larval mosquito control program, please fill out the section below. **NOTE THAT THE USE OF PESTICIDES IS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF M.G.L. c. 132B, THE MASSACHUSETTS PESTICIDE CONTROL ACT, AND THE REGULATIONS PROMULGATED THEREUNDER AT 333 CMR 2.00 THROUGH 14.00 ET SEQ.***

Describe the purpose of this program:

What months will this program be active?

Describe the types of areas where you intend to use this program:

What will your trigger be for larviciding operations? (check all that apply)

- Best professional judgment
- Historical records
- Larval dip counts – please list trigger for application:
- Other (please describe):

Comments:

What control methods will you use (check all that apply):

- Ground application of larvicide (hand, portable and/or backpack, etc.)
- Aerial applications of larvicide (typically helicopter)
- Catch basin treatments
- Other (please list):

Comments:

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ADULT MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE

If you plan to have an adult mosquito surveillance program, please fill out the section below, or have the contractor provide this information if a contractor has already been selected.

Describe the purpose of this program:

What months will this program be active?

List all trap types you intend to employ (CDC light traps, gravid traps, ovitraps, etc.):

ADULT MOSQUITO CONTROL

*If you plan to have an adult mosquito control program, please fill out the section below, or have the contractor provide this information. **NOTE THAT THE USE OF PESTICIDES IS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF M.G.L. c. 132B, THE MASSACHUSETTS PESTICIDE CONTROL ACT, AND THE REGULATIONS PROMULGATED THEREUNDER AT 333 CMR 2.00 THROUGH 14.00 ET SEQ.***

Describe the purpose of this program:

What is the time frame for this program?

Describe the types of areas where you intend to use this program:

What methods of control will you use? Check all that apply:

- Aerial applications (typically helicopter)
- Portable applications (ex. Backpack sprayers)
- Truck applications (ultra-low volume (ULV) sprayers, misters, etc.)
- Other (please list):

Comments:

What will your trigger be for adulticiding operations? Check all that apply:

- Arbovirus data
- Best professional judgment
- Complaint calls (Describe trigger for application:)
- Landing rates (Describe trigger for application:)
- Trap data (Describe trigger for application:)

Comments:

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ASSESSMENT OF MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT PLAN EFFICACY

Describe efforts for assessing the efficacy of your mosquito management program, if your plan involves any of the following:

- Aerial Larvicide – wetlands:
- Ground ULV Adulticide:
- Larvicide – catch basins:
- Larvicide-hand/small area:
- Source Reduction: Depending upon the results of initial site inspections by the BOH, follow up inspections will be done to determine compliance and successful reduction.
- Other (please list):

Provide or list standard steps, criterion, or protocols regarding the documentation of efficacy (pre- and post- data), and pesticide resistance testing (if any):

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

Does your program intend to use (check all that apply):

- Aerial Photography
- Databases
- Dataloggers (monitoring for temperature, etc.)
- GIS mapping (Describe: existing wetlands map)
- GPS equipment
- Smartphones
- Tablets/Toughbooks
- Other (please describe):

Comments:

MOSQUITO HABITAT

Has any potential mosquito habitat been identified in your municipality? Yes No

If so, how? Please indicate all that apply:

- Mapping of wetlands
- Mapping of catch basins
- Past surveillance, done by:

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- DPH
 Mosquito Control District
 Contractor
 Municipality

MOSQUITO TESTING AND ARBOVIRUS

Indicate below which arboviruses have been found in your area during the last five years. If the box is checked please provide number of positive mosquito pools, equine (horse) and human cases.

Information available from your MCD, or at: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/arbovirus-surveillance-plan-and-historical-data>

Arbovirus	Positive Mosquito Pools	Equine Cases	Human Cases
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)			
<input type="checkbox"/> West Nile Virus (WNV)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list):			

Comments:

EDUCATION, OUTREACH & PUBLIC RELATIONS

All municipalities are required to have an education/outreach program.

Provide a 1-2 paragraph narrative of the proposed outreach plan:

Buckland is a rural community with woods, streams, farms and ponds. Our Town Select Board, BOH, Conservation Commission, and Highway Department are working together to formulate and implement an actionable plan to protect our residents against Mosquito borne diseases, without posing risk to human health or the environment. Our approach is

- 1) prevention - distribution of information and educational materials
- 2) intervention - identify problem areas and remediate
- 3) information - in the event of heightened risk, alert the public

Check off all education/outreach methods that you intend to employ:

- Development/distribution of brochures, handouts, etc.
 Door-to-door canvassing (door hangers, speaking to property owners, etc.)
 Social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, or other social media):
 Mailings (Describe target audiences):
 Media outreach (interviews for print or online media sources, press releases, etc.)

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- Presentations (in-person or virtual)
- School-based programs, science fairs, etc.
- Tabling at events (local events, annual meetings, etc.)
- Website (URL: _____)
- Other (please describe): outreach and presentation to summer recreational camps

Select the audience types you intend to target from the list below:

- Residents (homeowners, apartment dwellers, etc.)
- Landlords (for large apartment or condominium complexes)
- K-12 (teachers, students, camps, etc.)
- Municipal staff (highway dept., parks and recreation, board of health, conservation commission, etc.)
- State/Federal land managers (state parks, national wildlife refuges, etc.)
- Transportation industry (Busing companies, commuter rail, truck/rest stops, etc.)
- Recreational venues (fairgrounds, sports complexes, ballfields, etc.)
- Other land owners/managers (please describe):
- Other (please describe): trail users and trailheads / parking lots

Additional Comments:

List a minimum of 3 education/outreach activities you plan to execute for the upcoming mosquito season:

1. Post messages via Town website and social media
2. Press releases on how to prepare for mosquito season and how to prevent exposure
3. Post DPH educational materials at public recreation areas and summer camps
4. Create and deliver presentations to K-12 students
5. Have a presence at Buckland Trails Committee to engage with membership

OTHER COMMENTS

Please use this section to add any comments here on topics not covered elsewhere in this report:

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Municipalities that receive approval of alternative mosquito management plans from EEA are required to submit an annual report for all activities conducted during the mosquito season **by January 31st.**

Annual reports must be submitted to: EEAopt-out@mass.gov

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Please mark each check box indicating your acknowledgement of the items below, and sign and date the application before submitting it.

- The Municipality acknowledges that any work performed will be subject to applicable local, state, and federal regulations, ordinances, and statutes and all necessary permits, licenses, approvals, or other permission must be obtained prior to the commencement of any work. The approval of this Plan does not constitute work under M.G.L. c. 252 or authorize any exemption provided for work conducted under said chapter, unless otherwise expressly provided for by law.
- The municipality acknowledges that approval of a Plan allows it to opt out of spraying conducted by the SRMCB under M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A. It does not extend to any spraying conducting by a mosquito control project or district ("MCD") of which a municipality may be a member.
- The municipality acknowledges that it has conducted the required public meeting, that a vote is included with this Plan, and that any vote to opt out of spraying performed under M.G.L. c. 252 is subject to the approval of this Plan. No such opt out will be honored without an approved Plan.

DocuSigned by:

Dena Willmore












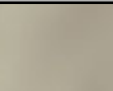


Signature and Title (Sign or Type Signature)

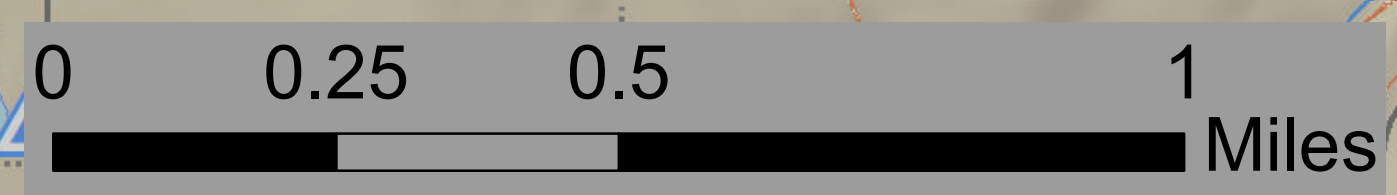
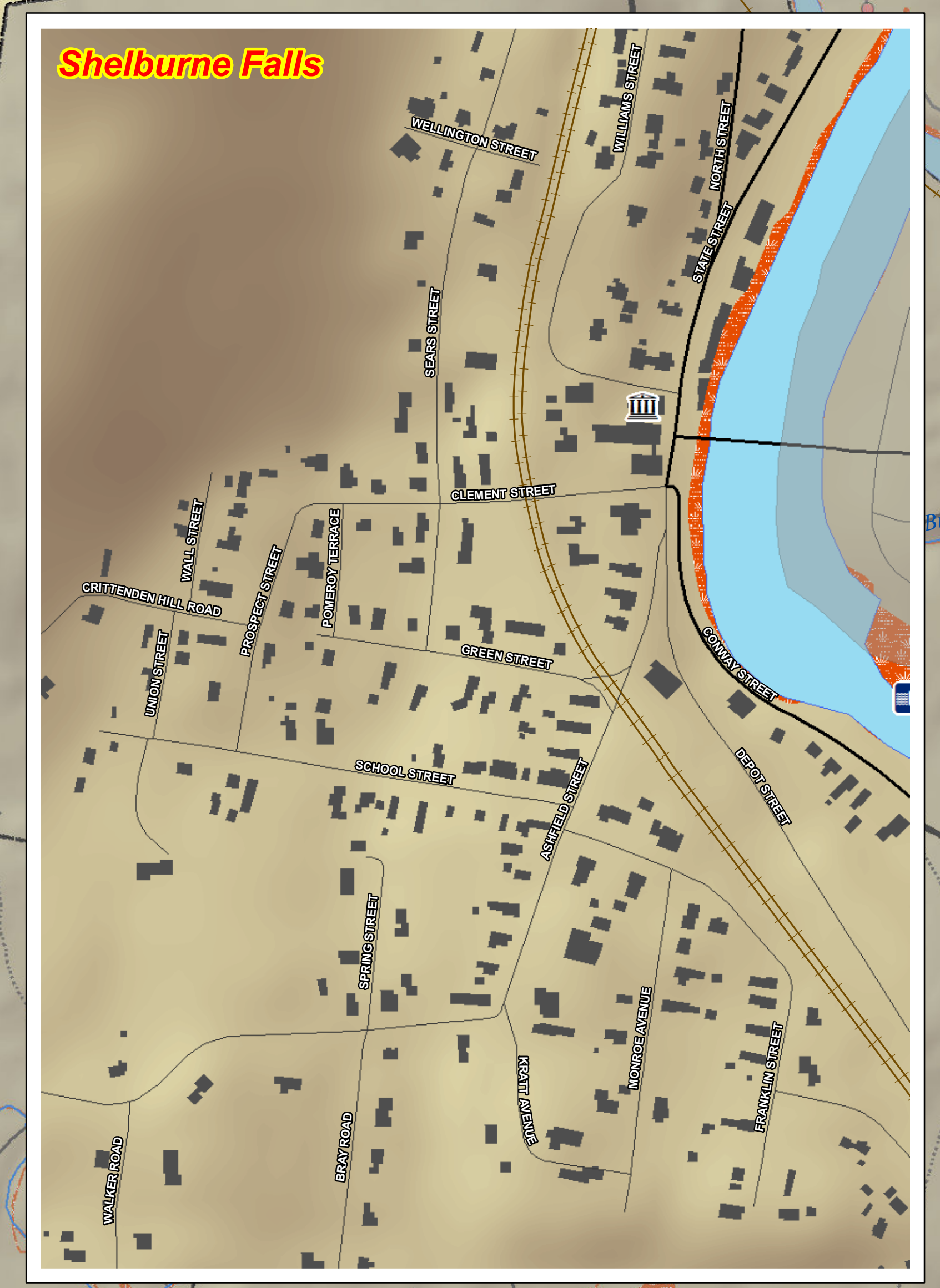
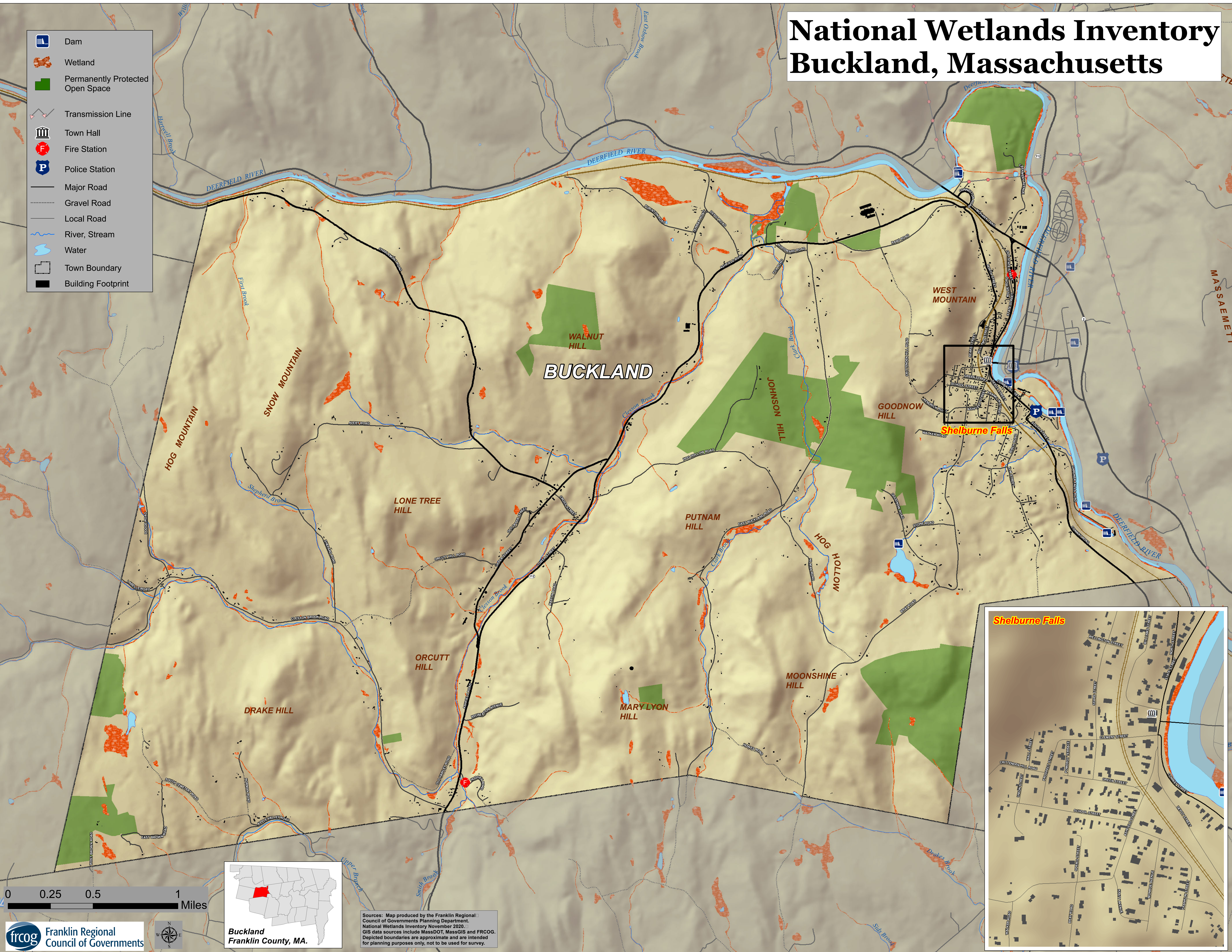
Dena willmore

Chair, selectboard

Date 5/26/2021

National Wetlands Inventory Buckland, Massachusetts

-  Dam
-  Wetland
-  Permanently Protected Open Space
-  Transmission Line
-  Town Hall
-  Fire Station
-  Police Station
-  Major Road
-  Gravel Road
-  Local Road
-  River, Stream
-  Water
-  Town Boundary
-  Building Footprint



Sources: Map produced by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Planning Department. National Wetlands Inventory November 2020. GIS data sources include MassDOT, MassGIS and FRCOG. Depicted boundaries are approximate and are intended for planning purposes only, not to be used for survey.





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MOSQUITO CONTROL RESOURCES

The following document aggregates informational resources for use in municipal mosquito control.

Arbovirus Resources

- [Mosquitoes in Massachusetts](#) - Frequently asked questions about mosquitoes and information about common kinds of mosquitoes that are most likely to spread disease in Massachusetts
- [Guide to EEE in Massachusetts](#) - Information about Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and mosquito control
- [Fact Sheet About EEE \(Eastern Equine Encephalitis\)](#)
- [Massachusetts Arbovirus Update](#) - Current Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) information in Massachusetts
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health's [Arbovirus Surveillance Plan and Historical Data](#)

Structural Resources

- [Session Law - Acts of 2020 Chapter 120](#) - An Act To Mitigate Arbovirus In The Commonwealth
- [State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board \(SRMCB\) web page](#)
- [Mosquito Control Projects and Districts web page](#)
- [How to Withdraw or Become a Member of a Mosquito Control District](#)

Spraying-related Resources

- [Mosquito Control and Spraying](#) - Fact sheet about aerial spraying of mosquitoes for EEE
- [How to Request an Exclusion or Opt out from Wide Area Pesticide Applications](#)
- [Notification of Aerial Spraying or other Wide Area Emergency Operations](#)

Finally, the Massachusetts webpage on the application for municipal opt-out of SRMCB spraying will continue to be updated as EEA develops the 2022 municipal opt-out program.

- [Application for Municipal Opt-Out of SRMCB Spraying](#)